In COBOL, **COMP (Binary)** fields are stored in **binary format**, and their **storage size (in bytes)** depends on the **compiler and platform**. Here’s the typical storage allocation:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COBOL Definition** | **Decimal Digits** | **IBM Mainframe (z/OS) Storage** | **Micro Focus & Others** |
| PIC 9(02) COMP | 2 digits | **2 bytes** (smallest unit) | **2 bytes** |
| PIC 9(04) COMP | 4 digits | **2 bytes** (fits in a halfword) | **2 bytes** |
| PIC 9(06) COMP | 6 digits | **2 bytes** (fits in a halfword) | **4 bytes** |
| PIC 9(10) COMP | 10 digits | **4 bytes** (fits in a fullword) | **4 bytes** |
| PIC 9(12) COMP | 12 digits | **8 bytes** (fits in a doubleword) | **8 bytes** |

### **Explanation:**

* **IBM Mainframe (z/OS) COBOL**:
* Uses **2 bytes** for up to **4 digits**.
* Uses **4 bytes** for **5–9 digits**.
* Uses **8 bytes** for **10 or more digits**.
* **Micro Focus & Other COBOL Compilers**:
* Often align with **IBM**, but some compilers use a **minimum of 4 bytes** for COMP storage.

In COBOL, the **BINARY** (or **COMP**) data type stores numeric values in binary format, and its **storage size (in bytes)** depends on the compiler and platform. Here’s the typical storage allocation:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COBOL Definition** | **Decimal Digits** | **IBM Mainframe (z/OS) Storage** | **Micro Focus & Others** |
| PIC 9(02) BINARY | 2 digits | **2 bytes** (smallest unit) | **2 bytes** |
| PIC 9(04) BINARY | 4 digits | **2 bytes** (fits in a halfword) | **2 bytes** |
| PIC 9(06) BINARY | 6 digits | **4 bytes** (fits in a fullword) | **4 bytes** |
| PIC 9(10) BINARY | 10 digits | **4 bytes** (fits in a fullword) | **4 bytes** |
| PIC 9(12) BINARY | 12 digits | **8 bytes** (fits in a doubleword) | **8 bytes** |

### **Explanation:**

* **IBM Mainframe (z/OS) COBOL**:
* **2 bytes** for up to **4 digits**.
* **4 bytes** for **5–9 digits**.
* **8 bytes** for **10 or more digits**.
* **Micro Focus & Other COBOL Compilers**:
* Often follow the same rules as IBM mainframes.
* Some compilers may allow you to override the default allocation.